

*A publication
for and about
the town of
Naper, Nebraska*

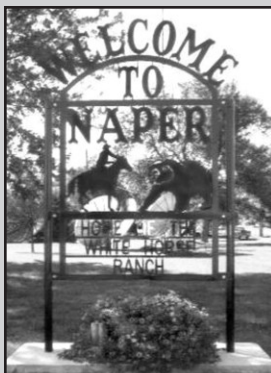
**The Naper
Historical Society**

Our Mission:

The mission of the Naper Historical Society is to preserve, interpret, display, communicate, promote and honor history, original structures, special places and artifacts of the people and culture of Naper, Nebraska, and the surrounding area. The Naper Historical Society intends to accomplish this mission by operating a museum, publishing a newsletter, sponsoring events, and in other appropriate ways. The Naper Historical Society will initially focus on four themes: School Days, Life in Naper Through the Years, White Horse Ranch, and Naper 28 Plane Crash.

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Naper Paper

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DESTRUCTIVE TORNADO KILLS EIGHT IN 1901

About sundown on June 20, 1901, a tornado swept down the Keya Paha River valley leaving death and destruction behind.

The storm first hit the home of Henry Metz who saw it approaching and then went into a slough with his brother where they lay down and held onto grass. They were picked up, carried about 200 yards, dropped, picked up again, dropped, then carried back to where they began the ordeal.

The tornado hit the farm of John Berg damaging some buildings and machinery but no one was injured. It turned west from there to Jacob Berg's farm where it destroyed the corncrib and upset a granary full of corn. John Hauff's home was torn up but again, no one was injured.

The tornado then bore down on the home of Jacob and Margaret Grening. Jacob and four of their children were killed. The entire farmstead was destroyed as well the farm machinery. Four horses, many sheep and other animals were killed. The storm tore

through timber and then struck and destroyed the new bridge across the Keya Paha River.

Next stop was the home of August Anderson where Mrs. Anderson took the children to a chicken coop which was destroyed along with all the other buildings. Two of their children were killed in the storm and a third child died the next day. Mrs. Anderson and her baby were lifted 30 feet in the air and then dropped to the ground.

The Grening's are buried in the German Congregational Cemetery (two miles west of Naper south of old Highway 12) where the stone is inscribed "Jacob Grening under kinder Getoibet in wirbelsturm (loosely translated: Jacob Grening and children killed in a cyclone) June 20, 1901." Buried there are Jacob Grening, age 46, Mari Katerina, age 8, Anna Maria, age 6, Johannes, age 4, and Jacob, age 2. Mrs. Grening was badly injured but survived; daughter Mary Margarette, age 14, was uninjured.

The Anderson children (Ida Anderson, age 5, Clara

Anderson, age 7, Bertha Anderson, age 10) are buried at Knoll Crest Cemetery. Mrs. Anderson and their son Theodore, age 8, were seriously injured. August Anderson, who was away from home, and the baby were uninjured.

The Grening home was located about 2.5 miles south of Naper on the west side of the Stuart road. According to county records, Jacob Grening had purchased the land (160 acres) from August Anderson in May, 1901, for \$605, less than \$4 per acre. Anderson reserved the buildings which were to be removed by July 1, 1901, but Mother Nature took care of the removal on June 20.

The land is now owned by Larry and Ann Anderson, no relation to August Anderson. Local residents might refer to this farm as "the Kortmeyer farm" as it was once owned by Julius and Lena Kortmeyer, or as "the Hoffman place" as it was later owned by Bill and Betty Hoffman.



WHOSE PAPER IS THIS ANYWAY?

This is your paper! We depend on you, our readers, to share stories, to give us hints, to correct us, to support us, to laugh with us. Thank you for your help in the past and for your continued help in the future. We often times are scratching our heads about the stories for the next issue—if you have any ideas, we'd certainly like to

hear them. You can use USPS (Naper Historical Society, Box 72, Naper, NE 68755) or e-mail (papabear@threeriver.net). You can access our website at napernebraska.org. As we've previously stated, the website is being updated so the most recent Naper Papers are not found there but lots of other good stuff is.

And last but not least, we

appreciate your financial support. Quarterly expenses include printing, postage, mailing permit, and professional fees for the graphic artist who makes this paper look good. Each issue costs about \$785 by the time it is complete. Your contributions make all this possible.

Thank you very much.

THE CIRCUIT RIDER HEADS OFF INTO THE SUNSET...

Harlan "Duke" Stahlecker has filled this column with interviews of the famous, the not-so-famous, the old, the not-so-old, but always those with interesting stories. Since he says the circuit rider is through riding/writing, we thought it was time to interview Duke!



Duke Stahlecker "at ease"

Duke was born in Jamison, Nebraska, which was where Grandpa and Grandma Stahlecker lived. As a child, Duke remembers visiting at Christmas time with the men sitting in one room and the women in another. He says the house was so small there were only two ways to move—either up or down. When one looked into the room where the men were seated, the air was blue—all of the men smoked and they all rolled their own Prince Albert cigarettes.

The first \$4 Duke earned was from Reo Ludemann for moving cattle. Duke thought they'd move cattle from one pasture to another so he jumped on his horse bareback and took off. He first had to ride two miles north to where Reo lived, and then they started moving cattle—five miles in the other direction! It rained most of the day and then he had to ride home. Talk about being trail worn! He used his wages to buy a belt buckle from Montgomery Ward. He also worked for Chris Rockholm chopping cockleburs.

When he was 14, his dad John showed him how to harness the team, hitch the hayrack, load the bundles and pull up to the threshing machine. On his first day hauling bundles, the threshing machine was being operated by John Stack who told Duke he sure wasn't the kind of a bundle hauler his dad was!

Duke's mother Esther Juran Stahlecker had graduated from high school in St. Charles and encouraged him to go to college. After he graduated from NHS in 1952, he set off for Southern State Teachers College in Springfield, South Dakota. After

two summers plus a full year of school, Dan Duffy (who had been superintendent in Naper when Duke was in high school) called from Niobrara, Nebraska, and offered Duke a job as teacher of seventh and eighth grades. He taught there for two years, then went to Wood, South Dakota, where he taught seventh and eighth grades and coached high school basketball for five years. He then became superintendent at Wood, a position he held for two years.

In November, 1963, Duke and his family loaded a truck and headed to Nacogdoches, Texas, where he had a job with the United Farm Agency, a nationwide real estate firm with offices in 43 states.

After five years he was moved to Kansas City where he became director of development for the company, later director of marketing and then vice president director of sales. After several years in Kansas City, they moved back to Nacogdoches where Duke opened a real estate office in a former gas station he remodeled to look like the Alamo and named his business "Alamo Realty."

In 1992, Duke attended the alumni banquet and dance during Naper's Centennial celebration. LaVerna Broekemeier Sieh approached him and asked if he'd dance "Cotton-Eyed Joe" with her and Velda McLaughlin. He said yes. Later that year Duke and Velda were in front of the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, and Duke said, "One hundred sixty-eight men went down here—let's make it 169. Will you marry me?" She said yes and they were married March 27, 1993.

Duke's daughters, Valerie and Vickie, live in Texas. When they were little tykes, they were put to bed but there was some commotion. Duke went into their bedroom and said, "I don't want to hear another peep out of you." Sure enough, as he turned away from the room, he heard an itty-bitsy "peep". He closed the door and just kept walking.

In 2009, Duke's story of hunting pheasants with Roy Rogers was in the Naper Paper. It is reprinted here because it's good enough to read twice!

It was fall, 1972, during Nebraska hunting season. Duke was living in Kansas City, working in the home office of United Farm Agency which sponsored a TV show called "A Sportsman's Friend," hosted by Harold Ensley.

One morning Harold called Duke and

invited him to go on a "Mixed Bag Hunt" at Silver Creek, Nebraska, as his guest. The hunt would last four days and nights and team members would be some rather famous folks: Roy Rogers; Bob Feller, the famous Cleveland Indians pitcher now in the Baseball Hall of Fame; Harmon Killebrew who was with the Minnesota Twins; and the famous bow hunter, Fred Bear. They'd all be hunting partners and staying in the same lodge as guests of Outdoor Life and the State of Nebraska. Needless to say, the invitation was hastily accepted.

The evening of the group's arrival found everyone in the cabin except Roy. Finally, a car drove up outside the cabin, the door opened, and in walked the "King of the Cowboys" singing "Happy Trails to You." He walked directly to the bunk where Duke was sitting and said, "I'm Roy Rogers." He continued around the room shaking hands. Duke, the kid from Naper, Nebraska, was speechless.

The next day, riding next to him in the car going to the cornfields and chatting like old friends, really gave Duke a chance to get well acquainted with Roy and the other hunters.

Roy was a humble man. He handled noisy groups and boisterous camera "bugs" with patience and dignity. After four days of watching him get pushed and shoved around by crowds, Duke said, "I used to think I'd want to be Roy Rogers, but after witnessing this lifestyle for four days and seeing the rudeness of folks and the pushing and shoving, I believe it's much simpler just being plain Duke. How do you handle it?"

Roy answered, "I talk to God every day on my knees in the morning."

A lasting friendship developed with these hunters. A couple of years later, Duke visited Roy's museum in Victorville, California.

Bob Feller has a museum in Van Meter, Iowa. Duke has been his guest there. Bob has also called Duke in Texas to visit.

Harmon Killebrew corresponded with Duke for years looking for the "right piece of real estate."

Fred Bear was an excellent shot with the shotgun as well as the bow and arrow. When asked if he was ever scared, he related a story of sitting on a branch in a tree one night with a sow grizzly beneath him swinging at the tree branch. He was out of arrows and he was scared! He spent



A hunt to remember. (L-R) Dusty Ensley, Roy Rogers, Duke Stahlecker, Harold Ensley, and Fred Bear

the night in the tree until rescued by a fellow hunter.

Unfortunately, time and the hunt went

too fast and the Happy Trails hunters have all gone in different directions over the years.

The Circuit Rider is heading off into the sunset, following "Happy Trails" into the future. Beginning with his interview with Albert Allpress (Issue #2 of the Naper Paper, Winter, 2004), until now, 12+ years later, he has interviewed many folks. Circulation of the paper has grown to over 750 copies mailed quarterly to the readers. Thanks from the circuit rider for your contributions, as there is no subscription fee. Your stories are always welcome and will continue to be printed.

May God bless our fine Naper Community.



**THIS IS
YOUR
PAPER!**

**The Naper Paper
c/o The Naper Historical Society
PO Box 72, Naper, NE 68755**

HOW GOOD IS YOUR MEMORY?

We're all getting older by the day but we can still remember fun things from childhood and the teen years. Or can we? How many can you answer?

1.) After the Lone Ranger saved the day and rode off into the sunset, the grateful citizens would ask, "Who was that masked man?" Invariably, someone would answer, "I don't know, but he left this behind." What did he leave behind? _____

2.) When the Beatles first came to the U.S. In early 1964, we all watched them on The _____ Show.

3.) 'Get your kicks, _____.'

4.) 'The story you are about to see is true. The names have been changed to _____.'

5.) "In the jungle, the mighty jungle, _____.

6.) After the Twist, The Mashed Potato, and the Watusi, we 'danced' under a stick that was lowered as low as we could go in a dance called the '_____.'

7.) Nestle's makes the very best _____.

8.) Satchmo was America's 'Ambassador of Goodwill.' Our parents shared this great jazz trumpet player with us. His name was _____.

9.) What takes a licking and keeps on ticking? _____.

10.) Red Skeleton's hobo character was named _____ and Red always ended his television show by saying, 'Good Night, and _____.

11.) Some Americans who protested the Vietnam War did so by burning their _____.

12.) The cute little car with the engine in the back and the trunk in the front was called the VW. What other names did it go by? _____ & _____.

13.) In 1971, singer Don MacLean sang a song about, 'the day the music died.' This was a tribute to _____.

14.) We can remember the first satellite placed into orbit. The Russians did it. It was called _____ and was launched in (month and year) _____.

15.) One of the big fads of the late 50's and 60's was a large plastic ring that we twirled around our waist. It was called the _____.

16.) Remember LS/MFT _____/ _____?

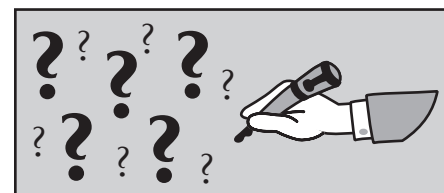
17.) Hey Kids! What time is it? It's _____!

18.) Who knows what secrets lie in the hearts of men? Only The _____ Knows!

19.) There was a song that came out in the 60's that was "a grave yard smash". Its name was the _____!

20.) Alka Seltzer used a "boy with a tablet on his head" as its symbol. What was the boy's name? _____

So how did you do? Turn to page 4 for the answers.



I'M A SEENAGER

received by a friend upon his retirement

Never heard of a seenager? I'm a senior teenager. I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 50 years later.
I don't have to go to school or work.
I get an allowance every month.
I have my own pad.
I don't have a curfew.
I have a driver's license and my own car.
I have an ID that gets me into bars and the liquor store.
The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant.
And I don't have acne.
Life is great!

ANSWER KEY:

1. The Lone Ranger left behind a silver bullet.
2. The Ed Sullivan Show
3. On Route 66
4. To protect the innocent.
5. The Lion Sleeps Tonight
6. The limbo
7. Chocolate
8. Louis Armstrong
9. The Timex watch
10. Freddy, The Freeloader and 'Good Night and God Bless.'
11. Draft cards
12. Beetle or Bug
13. Buddy Holly
14. Sputnik and October, 1957
15. Hoola-hoop
16. Lucky Strike/Mean Fine Tobacco
17. Howdy Doody Time
18. Shadow
19. Monster Mash
20. Speedy

Is your memory as good as you thought it was or even better?

LOREN SIEH'S STING

By Loren Sieh

Do you remember the bombing of the Alfred Murrah Government Building in Oklahoma City April 19, 1995? I do, not for just the act itself, but for what followed.

I came home from my station that evening. My wife Linda was snowed in in Grand Island that night as she was returning from Apache Junction, AZ, with her snowbird mother. As I started cooking my supper, the phone rang. I answered it and the caller identified himself as a Mr. Cassidy, an international talk show host in Florida. (Remember this is during the time period when there was an attempt to locate a nuclear waste site between Butte and Naper. At this time, I had become an outspoken critic of the siting process and was considered by some to be a radical!!!)

He informed me he wanted to interview me as to the marshals in Boyd County. I replied, "Don't you mean the marshals at the dump site?"

"No", he said, "I want to interview you about the marshals."

I told him I didn't know what he was

talking about. Then "Mr. Cassidy" said he had to return to his program and would call me later.

After I hung up the phone, I wondered what the H-- that was all about. Then it dawned on me he was speaking of the posse comitatus groups that had sprung up across the U.S. Then I got nervous. I had to call someone to check this out. I remembered a friend of mine with the Associated Press in Lincoln. I called J. L. Schmidt and related the context of my conversation to him. He thought something was funny and told me to stay home. He'd check "Mr. Cassidy" out.

About 15 minutes later, J. L. called me back to tell me there was nobody by that name with a talk show in Florida or any other place. Then he lowered the boom on me and told me that it was certainly a federal agency (FBI?) and if anyone came to speak to me, to call him immediately because it was obviously about the Oklahoma City bombing.

Needless to say, I was stunned! He told

me to call the local monitoring committee attorney, Pat Knapp, as I was a member of this group. I needed her to be available if necessary. There weren't any visits by black Suburbans or any more phone calls, but I didn't sleep that night and was very nervous the next few days as I was being considered a terrorist! Imagine that! Me, a Goldwater-Reagan Republican!

The humorous part of this is that afterwards when I flew commercially (probably about 12 times), I was never searched or even slowed at airports, but my wife Linda was searched and detained every time she flew in a plane. Boy, did that fire her up!

Thank you, J. L., for your support and advice.

A footnote to this episode, whenever I went to the state capitol to testify or lobby, it never failed—every trooper I met called me by name even though I had never met them before. Was my picture displayed someplace? More on this later.

ALUMNI BANQUET MAY 28

About 80 alumni and guests attended the 63rd annual alumni banquet in the Naper Hall on May 28. The honored classes were those whose graduation year ended in "6", with the earliest being 1936. The theme was "Sweet Sixteen at NHS" and Stan McLaughlin, class of 1966, was MC. Mary Finnegan's crew from the Nebraskinn at Gross catered the meal.

This year, the volunteers who set up and decorated the tables developed a seating arrangement to keep honored classes together. They'd love to get some feed-back from those who attended as to

whether you thought it was effective or not. In fact, they'd love to get some feed-back about anything you'd like to comment on regarding the banquet, the letters, the food, whatever.

Dorothy Radford Rust, a member of the class of 1936, was unable to attend but sent a hand-written note:

"Naper Alumni Association:

Thank you for the invitation honoring my class. There were eight of us. Dorothy Clausen was my best friend. I'm sorry to say I didn't keep in contact with anyone. My family left Naper one month after

graduation and came to Washington.

I married Wm. Rust and we enjoyed 57 years together until he passed away. We raised four sons and four daughters. We lost one son to cancer, age 39.

I am 97 years old and living in a retirement home, cared for by loving family and good friends.

My best regards,

Dorothy Rust"



Class of 1946: Nellie Jean Siewert Parker and Alberta Boucher Breyer



Class of 1956: Ronald Kulm, Wayne Schoenefeld, Margaret Vogt Klien Schmitz, Carol Bechtold Ludemann, Marilyn Smith Sieh, Janet Cline Eggert



Class of 1966: Ed Peppel, Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy, Stan McLaughlin, Linda Broekemeier Buettner, Dale Reber, Sharon Vogt Robinson, Merle Riesselman, Donna Goodman Tompt



Class of 1976: John Bentzen, Kevin Neumiller, Kelly Vogt, Beverly Vogt Zink, David Schmitz, Glenn Zink



Class of 1996: Staci Zink Koenig



Class of 2016: Janet Ahlers and Kelly McCarthy with Kelly's grandmother Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy (class of 1966)



E-MAIL CONTACT:

If you need to contact Naper Historical Society, you can e-mail papabear@threeriver.net.

Check out the website napernebraska.org and see what we've got!

SAM AND KATHERINE STAHLLECKER STATSMANN, PIONEERS

By Joycelyn Blakkolb

Sam and Katherine Stahlecker Statsmann, Frieda Blakkolb's parents, were married in 1891 in Tripp, South Dakota, where they lived on a farm for nearly a year before moving to a homestead northwest of Naper. As with many young pioneer couples, they endured the usual hardships. One of their experiences was their proximity to the Indian reservation on the Ponca [Milk's Camp]. They could hear the beating of the tomtoms day and night which was extremely unsettling. It was not unusual for Indians to appear at their door, threatening to kill them. One day young Katherine did actually scurry across the prairie with baby Emil in her arms to seek safety. Quite an experience for an 18-year-old girl!

From 1892-1902, the Statsmanns lived on the homestead where Emil, Delia, Edward and Frieda were born. Three baby

boys, including a set of twins, did not survive. One of the twins was stillborn and buried on the homestead in a little wooden coffin that Samuel had made. The other twin died in a few days and was buried in the Lutheran cemetery west of Naper. Why they didn't also rebury the first baby with his twin is unknown.

Years later, the people who were then living on the homestead accidentally dug up the wooden box which was still intact while they were digging a new toilet hole! Imagine their surprise when they opened the box and found human remains. Frieda happened to overhear some women talking about the unusual discovery while they were visiting in front of the store on the next Saturday night. She remembered that a baby had been buried on the farm. Frieda, Bill and Joyce went to the farm the next day and there, indeed, in the tiny

wooden box, were the remains of that little baby buried so long ago—a smattering of dust, soft brown hair, and teeny fingernails. Gently, the little coffin was picked up and taken to the cemetery where the twins are still resting side by side.

In 1902, Samuel and Karl Reichel bought a hardware store in Naper where they were in business until 1920 when the partnership was dissolved. Samuel remained in the store until 1924 when he sold out to Jim Wright. In 1925, the Statsmanns, with Hannah, Harry and Leone, moved to Cook, Minnesota, where they started anew, clearing forest land and building the farm that was to be Samuel and Katherine's home for the rest of Samuel's life.

To the last, they were truly pioneers.

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL MERCHANTS

123 Main Photography Studio

Works by local artisans
832-5137

A&M Enterprises

*Trenching, pump installations,
backhoe work, plumbing*
832-5388

Bob's Auto Body

Auto body repair
832-5766, Box 223

Curl Up & Dye Beauty Shop

Haircuts, styling, coloring
832-5573

Drueke Trucking

Local and long-distance grain hauling
832-5610

Grammy and Pop's Hole-in-the-Wall Mart

New items each week
832-5018

K&S Mobile

Welding and equipment repair, on-site service
832-5125

Lynn's Upholstery

Covering chairs, couches and other furniture
832-5461

M&L Lawn Service

Mowing, trimming, fertilizing, tilling, seeding, spraying
832-5422

Naper Café and Lounge

Breakfast, dinner, supper, bar
832-5272

Naper Transport

Sand and gravel hauling
832-5955

Nick's Auto Sales

Used cars, oil changes, parts, tire repair, new tires
832-5166

U.S. Postal Service

832-5977

Spend here: Keep Naper strong!



THE OL' HOMESTEADERS IS STILL HUNTIN' AROUND FOR NEWS ...

CONGRATULATIONS...

LeRoy and Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy celebrated their 50th anniversary in July!

SAYING GOODBYE...

Delmer Jons died June 21. He and his wife JoAnn Cerny (NHS 1948) lived on a dairy farm about four miles northeast of Naper where they reared their 14 children.

Bennetta Schmitz Higgins Roth passed away July 12. She graduated from NHS in 1952 and lived in Boyd County her entire life. She was an accomplished quilter.

Marlin Dummer, a 1953 graduate of NHS, died July 14 and was buried July 18 in Black Hills National Cemetery at Sturgis. He and his wife Zelda lived in the area

until 1996. Zelda taught at Naper.

Adamae Vaughn Moody left this world July 19. She and Don lived south of Naper for many years and all four of their daughters graduated from Naper. She taught rural schools in Gregory County and in Naper for 27 years. How many readers remember Mrs. Moody as their teacher in one of the grades, one through five, in Naper?

Lovera Reber died July 20. She and Milo lived west of Naper and their five children graduated from Naper High School. Lovera taught school for many years and two of her children (Dale and Myra) also became teachers. How many readers remember Mrs. Reber as their teacher?

Howard Hovey, World War II veteran, died July 30. His wife, June Goodman Hovey, and their children graduated from NHS.

LETTERS & MORE LETTERS...

Thanks again for the Naper Paper. We certainly enjoy it. Nice to hear of all the history Naper and its people have. Keep up the good work.

Russ and Sandy Whitley

I love getting your paper. Great things to learn about.

Mary E. Vogt

Enclosed is a check for my paper and Janice Engelbart's paper. We both enjoy reading it.

Barbara Schochenmaier



You never know who you'll bump into in an airport, even one in Washington, DC. Roger Ludemann and Bill Peppel, 2016.



These boys have been hanging out together for a LONG time. Bill Peppel, Roger Ludemann, Ed Peppel, 1954



Honor Guard at Knoll Crest Cemetery following Memorial Day Services in the hall. Velva June Blum and Larry Allyn in the foreground.



Cruise Night in Naper, June 11. Landon and Aaron Melton being front-seat back-seat drivers of Dad's pickup.



Cruise Night in Naper, June 11 . A shiny red Corvette!



Naper Paper

Naper Historical Society
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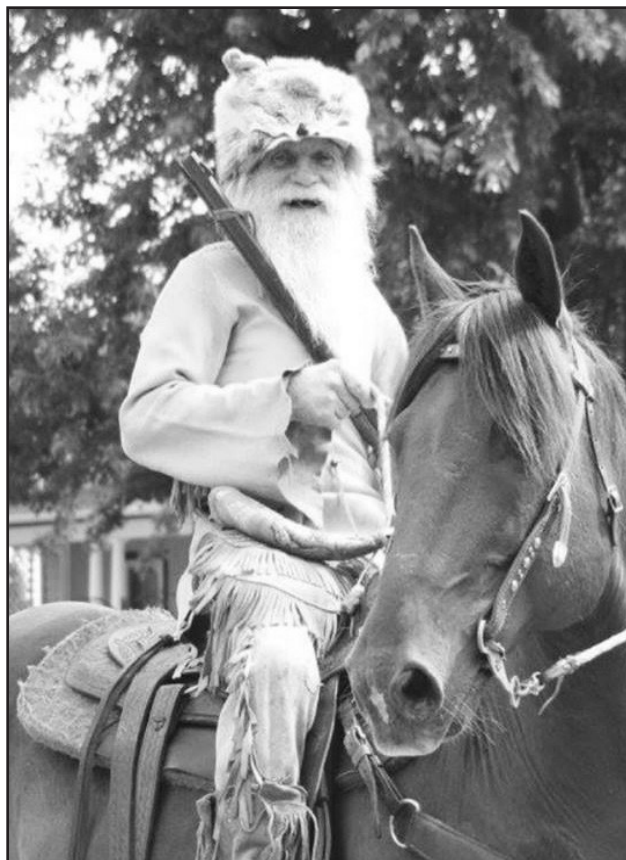
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IN THIS ISSUE...

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... AND MUCH MORE!



Marlin D. "Joe" Schrader in his mountain man gear. Or is this the Circuit Rider heading into the sunset?